

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an email to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE IARU REGION 1 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE FROM 11th TO 16th OCTOBER

THE FREE ONLINE AMSAT-UK SATELLITE COLLOQUIUM ON 11th OCTOBER

and

JAMBOREE-ON-THE AIR AND CQ HOU KOERS

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start the bulletin this morning with news of four silent keys

It is with deep regret that we must announce the keys of the following radio amateurs have gone silent:

Koos Engelbrecht, ZS4KE of the Welkom Radio Club passed away on Monday 20 July 2020 after heart failure.

Steve Proctor informed the Office that his father Dr David Proctor, ZS6ACH had passed away.

Chris Pelser, ZS6EX informed the Office that Jaap Besteman, ex-ZS6PK passed away during September 2020. He was living in Canada.

Keith Steel, ZS6KAS passed away on Wednesday 30 September as a result of a fall off his roof a month ago.

We extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of these radio amateurs.

PAUSE

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE IARU REGION 1 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE FROM 11th TO 16th OCTOBER

If the COVID pandemic had never taken place, three SARL delegates would be flying to Novi Sad in Serbia for the Region 1 General Conference. But the pandemic did happen and therefore the IARU Region 1 Virtual General Conference will take place from Sunday 11th to Friday 16th October 2020 using the GoToMeeting platform.

On Sunday 4th October, all delegates will receive guidance to use the virtual platform and on Tuesday 6th October at 18:00 CAT, the C2 Credentials meeting will take place. This meeting will look at the list of Member Societies registered and if their Region 1 subscriptions have been paid by 1st October 2020.

The Opening Plenary of the 2020 Conference takes place at 09:00 CAT on Sunday 11th October. The Conference work will be done in streams - C2 Budget; Committee 3 - Administration; Committee 4 - the Permanent HF Committee; Committee 5 - the Permanent VHF, UHF and Microwave Committee; Committee 7 - the Permanent EMC Committee; the Spectrum and Regulatory Committee/Political Relations Committee and the Youth Working Group. The Papers for the Conference are available on <https://r1papers.wordpress.com/>. The SARL has submitted two Papers.

On each day from Sunday to Wednesday, three streams will meet at 09:00, 13:00 and 16:30 CAT per Conference timetable. On Thursday 16th October, C3 will meet at 09:00, whereafter the Region 1 Secretary will prepare the Papers for the Final Plenary and provide each Member Society with copies. The Final Plenary will start at 09:00 SAT on Friday 16th October, with the second session at 13:00 and if needed a third session at 16:30.

The SARL Team attending the Conference is Head of Delegation, Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL with Dennis Green, ZS4BS; Rassie Erasmus, ZS1YT; Nick Dreyer, ZS1N; Brian Jacobs, ZS6YZ; Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT; Hans van den Groenendaal, ZS6AKV; Anton Janovsky, ZR6AIC; Dave Higgs, ZS2DH; Guy Eales, ZS6GUY and Koos Fick, ZR6KF.

THE FREE ONLINE AMSAT-UK SATELLITE COLLOQUIUM

The AMSAT-UK Online International Space Colloquium takes place on Sunday 11th October from 10:00 to 16:00 UTC with a break for lunch, and several short breaks during the day. You do not have to be a member of AMSAT-UK to participate and the event is free of charge but please register ASAP. Those who are registered will be entered for a number of free raffles which will take place during the event. Please register online at <http://tinyurl.com/amsatukreg2020> and the AMSAT-UK Colloquium Page is at <https://amsat-uk.org/colloquium/>

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THE SPRING SARL QRP CONTEST ON 10th OCTOBER

The forth QRP Contest for 2020 takes place from 12:00 to 15:00 UTC Saturday 10th October 2020 with CW and SSB activity using 5 Watts or less. The first hour is limited to the 40 m band only, the remaining two hours the contestants are free to use any HF (non-WARC) band as they see fit. The exchange is a RS or RST report and your 6-character grid square.

Each contact counts 1 point and there are multipliers for Country and Station type. Submit your log in ADIF or Cabrillo with a summary sheet or make use of the MS Excel log sheet. Send the log to contest@sarl.org.za by Monday 19th October 2020. Turn to page 42 of the 2020 Blue Book for the rules.

JAMBOREE-ON-THE AIR AND CQ HOU KOERS

The annual Jamboree-on-the-Air and CQ Hou Koers activities take place over the weekend of 17th and 18th October. JOTA runs from Friday evening 16th October to Sunday evening 18th October and CQ Hou Koers on Saturday 17th October. Here is your chance to allow these young people to talk to other Scouts, Guides and Voortrekkers via amateur radio. Contact your local Scout, Guide and/or Voortrekker Group and make the arrangements to set up a station at their meeting place. Contact Richard Hooper, ZS6RKE the National JOTA Coordinator for Scouts South Africa at richard@sandringshamscouts.co.za or Andries Visagie, ZS6VL, the CQ Hou Koers Coordinator at andries.visagie@gmail.com for more information.

THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB RELAYS ON 70 CM

In order to keep the 70 cm band active, the Southern Suburbs ARC will be relaying the SARL Bulletins and Amateur Radio Today on a Sunday. David, ZR6DLG and Dave, ZR6LSD have set up and tested a high quality automated relay system which will be used by the Club to relay the weekly Sunday SARL Afrikaans and English bulletins from 06:15 UTC on the Club 439,125 MHz (with 88,5 Hz tone) repeater. The AR Today programme will also be relayed on the same repeater at 08:00 UTC. Please send reports to zs6wc@vodamail.co.za

CONTEST NEWS

The closing date for logs for the SARL VHF/UHF Digital contest held on 19th and 20th September has been extended to Wednesday 7th October. To date only one log has been received. Send your logs to contest@sarl.org.za

The results of the 5th leg of the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint have changed following a query. The points for the Bo-Karoo ARC change to 600 points; the points after 5 legs changes to 1 806 points. In the individual scores, Nico, ZS4N and Aldo, ZS4AL share first place with 124 points.

The Contest Committee received 22 logs for the second leg of the SARL National Field Day held on 12th and 13th September. Thank you to Nick, ZS1N who worked through the logs.

Class A

1st the West Rand ARC – 145 044 points

2nd the Highway ARC – 67 176 points

3rd the Sandton ARC – 37 908 points

Class D

1st Johan Louw, ZS4WW – 77 274 points

2nd Dennis Green, ZS4BS – 4 950 points

Class F

1st Pieter Jacobs, ZS6XT – 26 298 points

2nd the Port Elizabeth ARS – 6 192 points

3rd Gert du Plessis, ZR6GRT 2 604 points

The full results will be published in HF Happenings 920.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently no sunspot regions visible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. With the recent equinox the 15 to 40 m bands may, especially around sunrise and sunset, provide some good DX fun. 10 m may also have some surprises late afternoon in store. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – the AWA SSB Valve QSO Party, the RSGB DX contest and the FMH Portable Operations Challenge

7th October – closing date for the VHF/UHF Digital contest logs

8th and 9th October – the Draconids meteor shower

10th October – the Spring QRP Contest

11th October – the free online AMSAT-UK Satellite Colloquium

11th to 16th October – the IARU Region 1 Virtual General Conference

17th October – CQ Hou Koers

17th and 18th October – JOTA

21st and 22nd October – the Orionids meteor shower

24th and 25th October – the CQ WW DX SSB contest

25th October – the PEARS HF Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The IARU Region 1 Virtual General Conference will take place from Sunday 11th to Friday 16th October 2020 using the GoToMeeting platform. The Opening Plenary of the 2020 Conference takes place at 09:00 CAT on Sunday 11th October. The Conference work will be done in streams - Budget; Administration; the Permanent HF Committee; the Permanent VHF, UHF and Microwave Committee; the Permanent EMC Committee; the Spectrum and Regulatory Committee/Political Relations Committee and the Youth Working Group.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by email to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.